CLAIMS

1. A method for displaying a plurality of string objects, consisting of the following steps:

selecting one of a plurality of sort order criteria;

sorting a plurality of said string objects based on the selected sort order of said string object; and

displaying a plurality of said string objects in selected sort order.

2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein an identifier is provided for each of said sort order criteria; a user may select one of the identifiers; if none of the identifiers is selected, then a default sort order is designated and a plurality of said string objects are sorted and displayed according to the default sort order criteria.

3. The method as defined in claim 2, wherein the default sort order may be pre-selected by the user or the system or it may be that which was in place the last time that method was used or it may be decided by an algorithm.

4. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the following steps after the step of selecting the sort order criteria :

further dividing a plurality of said string objects into a plurality of groups;

selecting one of said groups;

displaying the string objects of the selected group in a manner that is different from the manner of displaying the string objects of other groups.

5. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the following steps after the step of selecting the sort order criteria :

further dividing a plurality of said string objects into a plurality of groups;

selecting one of said groups;

moving a cursor to the location of the string objects of the selected group.

6. The method as defined in claim 4, said different manner of displaying

string objects comprise (but not limit to) one or more of blinking, changing the font, enlarging the size, highlighting or changing color of the string objects.

7. The method as defined in claim 4 or 5, wherein an identifier is provided for each group; a user may select one of the identifiers; if none of the identifiers is selected, then a default group is designated, string objects of the default group are displayed in a manner that is different from the manner of displaying the string objects of other groups or the cursor is moved to the location of the string objects of the selected group.

8. The method as defined in claim 7, wherein said identifiers of groups that belong to different sort order criteria may be displayed simultaneously, the string objects are re-sorted if the selected group does not belongs to the current sort order criteria.

9. The method as defined in claim 7, wherein the default group may be pre-selected by the user or the system or it may be that which was in place the last time that method was used or it may be decided by an algorithm.

10. The method as defined in claim 4, 5, or 6, wherein the number of groups is decided by the number of identifiers that can be displayed or the number of objects included in the groups.

11. The method as defined in any one of claim 1 to 5, wherein said sort order criteria comprise alphabet order, Pinyin order, Zhuyin order, stroke order, stroke count order, radical order, kana order or Korean character order.

12. The method as defined in any preceding claim, wherein said string objects may be one of personal data in an address book, links of Internet addresses, file names or other list of text.

13. An apparatus for displaying a plurality of string objects, comprising:

a storage means for storing a plurality of said string objects;

an input means for entering user commands;

a sorting means for responding to the sort order criteria entered by a user, retrieving a plurality of said string objects from said storage device, and sorting a plurality of said string objects based on the selected sort order of

the string objects; and

a display means for displaying a plurality of said string objects in the selected sort order.

14. The apparatus as defined in claim 13, wherein an identifier is provided for each of said sort order criteria on said display means, a user may select one of the identifiers by said input means; if none of the identifiers is selected, then a default sort order is designated and a plurality of said string objects are sorted and displayed according to the default sort order criteria.

15. The apparatus as defined in claim 14, wherein the default sort order may be pre-selected by the user or the system or it may be that which was in place the last time that method was used or it may be decided by an algorithm.

16. The apparatus as defined in claim 13, further comprising:

a grouping means for further dividing said sorted string objects into a plurality of groups; selecting one of said groups; and displaying the string objects of the selected group in a manner that is different from the manner of displaying the string objects of other groups.

17. The apparatus as defined in claim 13, further comprising:

a grouping means for further dividing said sorted string objects into a plurality of groups; selecting one of said groups; and moving a cursor to the location of string objects of selected group.

18. The apparatus as defined in claim 16, said different manner of displaying string objects comprise (but not limit to) one or more of blinking, changing the font, enlarging the size, highlighting or changing color of the string objects.

19. The apparatus as defined in claim 16 or 17, wherein an identifier is provided for each group on said display means, a user may select one of the identifiers; if none of the identifiers is selected, then a default group is designated, and only the string objects of the default group are displayed or the first string object of the default group is highlighted.

20. The apparatus as defined in claim 13, wherein said identifiers of groups that belong to different sort order criteria may be displayed simultaneously, the string objects are re-sorted if the selected group does not belongs to the current sort order criteria.

21. The apparatus as defined in claim 19, wherein the default group may be pre-selected by the user or the system or it may be that which was in place the last time that method was used or it may be decided by an algorithm.

22. The method as defined in claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the number of groups is decided by the number of identifiers that can be displayed or the number of objects included in the groups.

23. The method as defined in any one of claim 13 to 18, wherein said sort order criteria comprise alphabet order, Pinyin order, Zhuyin order, stroke order, stroke count order, radical order, kana order or Korean character order.

24. The apparatus as defined in any one of claim 13 to 23, wherein said string objects may be one of personal data in an address book, links of Internet addresses, file names or other list of text.

25. The apparatus as defined in any one of claim 13 to 24, wherein said apparatus is either a computer, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a mobile phone, a smart phone or other electrical device that is capable of displaying text information.